

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method is described for detecting total end-to-end loss of data packets in a packet network that does not require direct access to the packet network. A test
5 signal is generated at a source end point indirectly coupled to the packet network. The test signal is transmitted over the packet network to a destination end point also indirectly coupled to the packet network. At the destination end point a modified test signal is received and examined to detect irregularities and then processed to
10 determine whether the irregularities in the recorded signal represent packet loss.